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Committee to Eliminate Heterosexism and Homophobia draft of President's Statement on LGBT Equality

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CENTENNIAL
University of Rhode Island
University Library, Technical Services Department

To: Diane Goodman

From: Michael Vocino

Re: Proposed draft letter from the President to the
community regarding sexual orientation

Date: 27 January 1992

As Charged by the Committee to Eliminate Heterosexism and
Homophobia, Bill Bartels, Mary Cappello, Jeff Morey and I
met on 26 January to write the first draft of a letter on
sexual orientation President Carothers might want to send to
the University community.

Attached is a copy of that first draft. We hope Committee
members will have the opportunity to review it before our
next meeting at which time members can suggest changes,
inserts, deletions, etc. Content, style, etc. are open for
full discussion.

cc: Committee Members

gay1.wp

Date: 27 January 1992

To: Members of the University Community

From: Robert L. Carothers
President

Subject: Sexual Difference

The University of Rhode Island is a homosexual, bisexual and heterosexual community and it needs to see itself that way.

The University's official policy takes a positive step in this direction:

"The University of Rhode Island prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, color, creed, national origin, handicap, or sexual orientation, and discrimination against disabled and Vietnam era veterans in the recruitment, admission, or treatment of students, the recruitment, hiring, or treatment of faculty and staff, and the operation of its activities and programs."

This policy clearly prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Our goal, however, is not merely to avoid discrimination, but to celebrate sexual difference as a vital aspect of the University's diversity.

Please take the time to think about what it would mean to realize this goal, and direct your written responses to my office.

gay1.wp